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March 28, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.  
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding*  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC REPORTING OF HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS**

On May 21, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing the Department to report back to the Board with a comprehensive plan developed in cooperation with private hospitals to make public rates of hospital infections and outbreak information by hospital. This is an update to our report made January 30, 2006.

**California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Working Group**

A physician from Public Health is a member of the CDHS statewide HAI Advisory Working Group. A final report from the working group was provided in the last update. The report supports public reporting of hospital process measures; however, it does not support reporting of outcome measures. Public Health sent a letter to the CDHS Director expressing the Department's view that selected infections should be made publicly reportable. The CDHS indicated that they intend to seek support from the Legislature to enact legislation making HAI process-specific data publicly reportable and outcome-specific data reportable to the CDHS for quality improvement purposes. They have submitted Budget Change Proposals for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a Healthcare and Community Infection Control Program and expansion of the communicable disease surveillance infrastructure. This proposal was rejected by the Senate Budget Committee on March 13, 2006 and is currently being considered by the Assembly Budget Committee. The Working Group will also re-convene to provide further advice to the CDHS.

**Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) HAI Task Force**

Staff from Public Health are founding members of the HASC HAI Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to assist hospitals in reducing HAIs. The taskforce distributed a survey January 20, 2006, to local hospitals to assess infection control resources and practices. The survey data is currently being analyzed. A one-day educational program is being organized to prepare hospital infection control programs for HAI reporting.

**Hospital Outreach Unit**

The Hospital Outreach Unit in Public Health's Acute Communicable Disease Control Program continues to collaborate and improve communications with

hospitals in Los Angeles County. Hospital Outreach Unit staff currently attend infection control committee meetings in 19 acute-care hospitals including the five Department hospitals.

### **California Legislation**

On February 24, 2006, Senator Alarcon introduced SB1780 requiring health facilities to transmit notification of a nosocomial infection to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. These data would be compiled to establish an aggregate nosocomial infection rate per health facility and transmitted to all applicable local health agencies. The Speier SB739, which was refused passage in Assembly, is anticipated to be reintroduced in 2006. It would have required certain hospital-acquired infections to be publicly reported.

We will provide further updates concerning our progress in working on public reporting of HAIs as changes occur. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

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c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors